(b) whether it is a fact that only negligible surplus land under ULC was made available, if so, whether this phenomenon adversely affected urban construction activities due to huge land getting blocked up in litigation, whether this is the major factor in high prices of urban land; and

(c) what is the time frame for amending the ULC Act and framing model Rent Act, what was the concensus arrived at Chief Ministers' conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Regarding Urban Land Ceiling Act, the outcome of the Chief Ministers' meeting is that there was a general agreement on the thrust of the amendments suggested in the Act. The thrust is to encourage the land owners to develop their lands for construction of houses, providing protection to genuine agriculturists, introduction of vacant land tax, simplifying various procedures etc. provided under the Act. Suggestions were also received to make the Rent Control Legislation mort flexible.

(b) It is a fact that only negligible excess vacant land has been acquired and this has adversely affected to some extent urban construction activities. A large number of cases, involving huge lands are under litigation and this is one of the factors in the high price of urban land.

(c) The concensus arrived at Chief Ministers' Conference is that incentive should be given to owners to develop their lands, the rate of compensation may be increased, genuine agriculturists should be protected and the development activity should be made faster by taxing urban vacant land. The Amendment Bill will be introduced only after the State Legislature pass a Resolution in respect of amendments to the Act under Article 252 of the Constitution of India.

Regarding Model Rent Control Act, Chief Ministers' meeting generally endorsed draft Model Rent Control legislation subject to some suggestions in order to make it flexible to suit the local conditions. For adopting the Model Rent Control Law, it is required to be circulated to State Govts. for adoption. The Matter related therewith requires an in-depth analysis of various aspects which is quie time consuming. Hence it is too premature to draw up a time frame.

Expenditure on slums in Bombay

4266. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of slum pockets situated on Central Government's land in Bombay|Greater Bombay;

(b) the number of these slum pockets which have been provided with civic amenities;

(c) what is the total amount spent by the Centre in providing civic amenities to these slums and what is the State Government's share in the expenditure.

(d) what are the norms and conditions laid down for providing civic amenities to the slum pockets in Bombay;

(e) whether Maharashtra Government have expressed its willingness to provide civic amenities to the remaining slum pockets on Central understanding with the Central Government and have submitted a proposal; and

(f) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) As per the present information available on the matter there are 149 slum pockets situated on lands of Central Government departments.

(b) According to the information made available by the Government of Maharashtra, civic amenities have been provided in 24 slum pockets.

(c) Civic amenities in slums are basically provided under the State sector scheme for slum improvement. According to the information furnished by the Government of Maharashtra, an amount of Rs. 1.58 crores has been spent by the State Government on provision of basic

amenities in slums located on Central Government lands till 31-3-91. A World Bank assisted project called the Bombay Urban Development Project is also under implementation in Bombay and an allocation of Rs. 23.74 crores has been made in the said project for slum upgradation against which the State Government has reported an expenditure of Rs. 5.17 crores upto January, 1992. A special grant of Rs. 100 crores was also announced in 1985 by the then Prime Minister to the Government of Maharashtra for solving the acute problems of slums and housing in Bombay. So far Rs 10 crores have been released by the Central Government to the Government of Maharashtra in pursuance of this announcement which includes Rs. 22 crores for slum upgradation, Further, on the recommendation of the 9th Finance Commission, the Ministry of Finance approved a special grant-in-aid of Rs. 50 crores to the Government of Maharashtra for slum clearance, environmental improvement of slums and provision of basic amenities in Bombay. The State Government is required to contribute an equal share. The Finance Ministry has released an amount of Rs. 48.83 crores till date against the said grant.

(d) to (f) The Government of Maharashtra has asked the Central Government for issuance of no objection certificate for providing civic amenities in 113 slums situated on Central Government lands in Bombay. The present policy of the Central Government is that the State Government may provide at its own cost basic amenities on Central Government lands excluding slums at either side of the runway at Bombay airport which cause bird menace, hutments within 30 ft. of the railway tracks, Defence lands where vital instalations are to be located and lands which are not required by the land owning departments for their immediate use after securing a no objection certificate from the concerned Central departments. On the basis of the aforementioned policy the decision regarding the issuance of a no objection certificate is to be taken by each of the Central Departments concerned.

Planning commission's approval for investment on N.C.R.

4267. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission has approved any investment proposals for housing, Urban Development, water supply and public works etc. for the National Capital Region for the next financial year; if so, what are the details; and

(b) whether the Eighth Five Year Plan allocated for N.C.R. for these items have been finalised; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Planning Commission has made provisions of Rs. 10 crores as contribution to National Capital Region Planning Board for the financial year 1992-93. This does not include provision made by Central Ministries, State Governments and UT of Delhi associated with the National Capital Region.

(b) Eighth Five Year Plan allocation for NCR have not yet been finalised.

Fire in Vigyan Bhavan

4268. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Vigyan Bhavan, which was gutted in a fire about two years ago and is under repairs, has again caught fire recently;

(b) if so, what is the estimated loss as a result thereof;

(c) whether Government have made any inquiry into the incident; and

(d) if so, what is the outcome thereof and the action taken by Government in the matter?